

# ***Pre-SFIREG***

## ***Meeting Summary***

October 29, 2019  
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm HST

**Invitees:** Updated list initially provided by EPA Region IX

**Meeting Facilitator:** John McHugh, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, SFIREG EPA Region IX Representative

**In Attendance** (by State/Tribe/Pacific Islands/Agency):

**California:** Jesse Cuevas, Nan Singhawemanon, Josh Ogawa, Donna Marciano, Ken Everett, + Others

**Nevada:** Bret Allen

**Arizona:** Jack Peterson

**Hawaii:** John McHugh

**Tribes:** Cocopah Tribe (Arizona)

**Pacific Islands:** Derry Guzman (Guam), Betwin Alokoa

**EPA Region IX:** Patti TenBrook, Mary Grisier, Katy Wilcoxon, Fabiola Estrada, Julie Jordan, Allison Watanabe, Norman Calero, + Others

### **Reports/Issues:**

#### **Arizona**

- Testing organic pesticide products, primarily neem based, for impurities. Similar results to what Oregon has seen which may help to explain why some 25B products work so well.
- For the most part dicamba has not been an issue in Arizona (or California, Nevada, Hawaii, Pacific Islands, or Tribes) but have had one complaint this year.
- Questions regarding pesticide residues associated with hemp/cannabis products.
- Looking into Focused WPS Inspections (vs overall WPS inspection), e.g. Personal Protective Equipment. EPA developing guidance on this approach to WPS inspections.
- There was a question regarding the status of the Pollinator Protection Plan in the country. Research into pesticide impact on honeybees being addressed by the Apiary Inspectors of America (minutes from 2019 meeting attached to this report – first meeting since 2008).

## **California**

- No outstanding issues at this time.
- Tracking pesticides in water: surface water, groundwater, urban and agriculture.
  - Producing annual report on what is found in the water and relating those findings to EPA benchmarks.
  - Monitoring wastewater which includes effluent/ untreated waste.
  - Copper being detected which is coming from boat hulls. Looking into regulation of high leach rate paints containing copper.
  - Fipronil detected and trying to determine whether there should be restrictions on its use for indoor and outdoor ant control. Urban runoff water contains fipronil and pyrethroids with 2012 restrictions on the use of pyrethroid in urban environments.
- Working on a large database to track the use of pyrethroids and imidacloprid. Some data, in certain situations, such as in surface water, are exceeding aquatic benchmarks. Pyrethroids are more common in urban areas where imidacloprid is more common in ag settings. Imidacloprid is being found in groundwater, concentrating on additional testing for the Central Coast of California for the insecticide.
- Also looking at the amounts of pesticides, in general, in NPDES permitted discharges into bodies of water.

## **Guam**

- Increase in 25B pesticides coming in from Asia.
  - In the middle of a Dengue Fever outbreak in Guam. 15 illegal pesticides have been noted because of this outbreak. Working with EPA Region IX to resolve.
  - There is a manufacturer on Guam who is making 25B products which are not regulated by FIFRA.
  - Question regarding any changes in 25B production regulatory oversight?
  - Are there EPA Producer Establishment requirements for manufacturer of 25B pesticides?
  - Seeing more 25B products in the market. There is a concern that the producers of these 25B products are adding regulated pesticides to their products. Is there a way to test for this? Guam does not have their own chemical lab. They could send to Hawaii for analysis but need an SOP for doing this. Hawaii can accept a few samples for analysis but is not,

generally, positioned to do more than a handful of this type of analysis, especially if it is not known what the additives are.

- Container sizes for small farmers on Guam is an issue. In general, new chemistry pesticides are much more effective at much lower dosage rates but are much more expensive. Containers that are usually found at the dealer level are much larger than what most Guam farmers need but they have to pay what is, frequently, big bucks for a container that might last them for years. This puts a big strain on the budget of the small farmers. They have questions about whether several farmers can share some of the same product so that there is not a big outlay of cash by any individual farmer for an effective product to spray on their crops. Hawaii is having this same issue among their small farmers. They would like to know if there is some way to resolve this issue. Probably can't resolve this issue for RUPs but what about non-RUP materials?
- What is the difference between home use garden products and those registered for farm use? Generally the home use product has a lower concentration of active ingredient and there is no Worker Protection Standard and Personal Protective Equipment required for home garden use products.
- They have come across some labels which seem to be contradictory. Specifically the label for Confront, an herbicide, contains a DANGER Signal Word with statements that indicate that "Prolonged or Frequently Repeated Skin Contact May Cause Allergic Reactions in Some Individuals" yet no gloves are required for PPE.

### **Nevada**

- No new issues for this SFIREG Period.
- Monitoring imidacloprid presence in groundwater. Checking groundwater for imidacloprid twice a year.

### **Tribes: Cocopah Tribe (Arizona)**

- No issues for consideration at the full SFIREG meeting.

### **EPA Region 9**

- Working on clarification of hemp and cannabis (in general) for pesticide registration.
- Up to 10 products to be quickly identified for use on industrial hemp.
- Requests for EPA to provide more guidance on "Focused" WPS inspections.

### **Multi-Purpose Grant Funds (from EPA)**

- Nevada using these funds for Technical Support/Process Improvement for an online system for all RUP certification and licensing exams. All exams will be proctored by Department staff and conducted on laptops for grading efficiency and cost effectiveness. Fifty-five laptops are required to fulfill this need.
- Hawaii is receiving EPA Multi-Purpose Grant Funds to provide partial funding for pesticide safety training of farmers who are limited in English proficiency. Translators and translated documents are being prepared with these funds.

### **PIRT**

SFIREG reps were asked to poll their region for preference for the PIRT program. For EPA Region 9 the following preferences were expressed:

Arizona – Option #3 Keep PIRT as is, state hosts volunteer

Hawaii – Option #1 Complete PIRT program, like PREP

Nevada – Option #2 Complete PIRT program but have incoming institution/organization handle logistics and finances only